

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2006

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
303 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Spratt
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
1401 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nussle and Ranking Member Spratt:

We respectfully request that you work with Members on both sides of the aisle to honor our promises to students and their schools by fully funding the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and Part B State Grants under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at their authorized levels of \$39.4 billion and \$16.9 billion, respectively, in the upcoming FY 2007 Budget.

As you know, No Child Left Behind became law in 2002 with broad, bipartisan support. States and school districts were asked to embrace new academic standards in exchange for the federal resources necessary to meet those standards.

Five years later, the President and Congress have cumulatively underfunded NCLB by a staggering \$40 billion. Regrettably, President Bush's recently released FY 2007 Budget request would further exacerbate this shortfall by underfunding NCLB by another \$15 billion below authorized levels. As a result, 3.7 million school children would lose the extra help they were promised under the law.

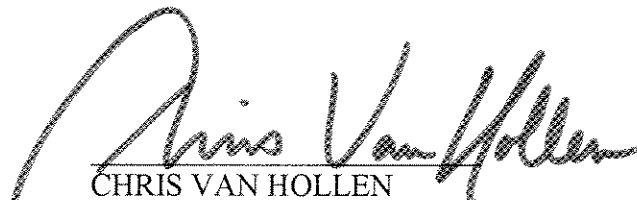
Similarly, barely a year after the Congress overwhelmingly renewed its commitment to fully fund special education by 2011, it cut federal spending for Part B State Grants under IDEA in FY 2006 by \$7 million – causing the federal commitment to educating students with disabilities to actually fall to 17.7% out of the promised 40%. Absent a course correction, our nation's special needs students will *never* receive the resources they were promised for their education *over thirty years ago*.

Keeping our promises to America's school children is the right thing to do, and – in our increasingly competitive global economy – it is the smart thing to do.


As you formulate the FY 2007 House Budget Resolution, please honor the commitments we have made to American education by fully funding NCLB and Part B of IDEA at their authorized levels of \$39.4 billion and \$16.9 billion respectively.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

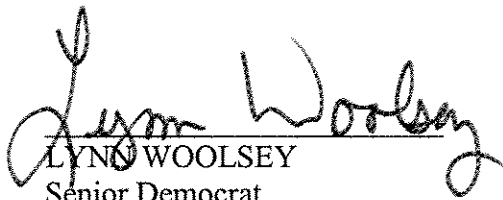
Sincerely,



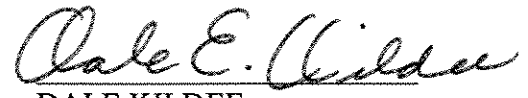
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member
Committee on Education
and the Workforce



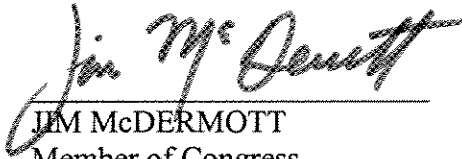
GEORGE MILLER
Senior Democrat
Committee on Education
and the Workforce



LYNN WOOLSEY
Senior Democrat
Subcommittee on
Education Reform



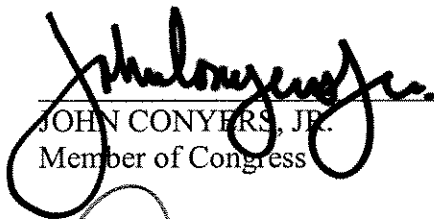
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JOHN CONYERS, JR.
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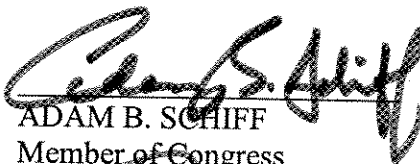



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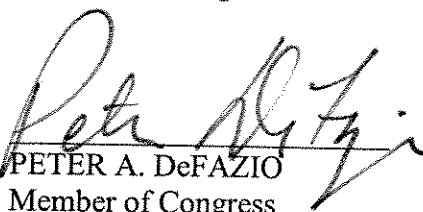

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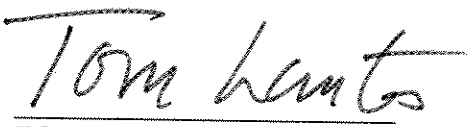

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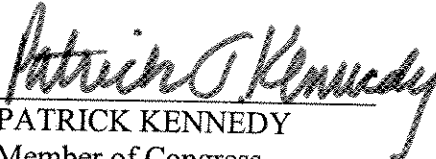

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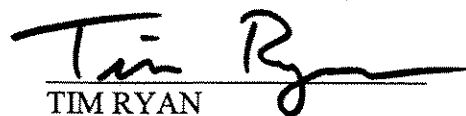

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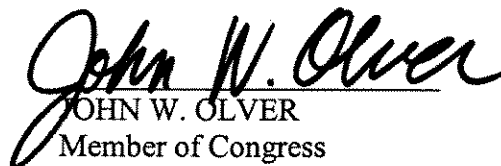
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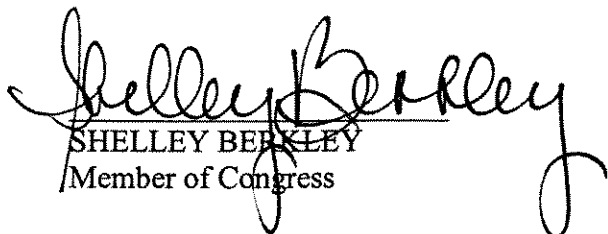
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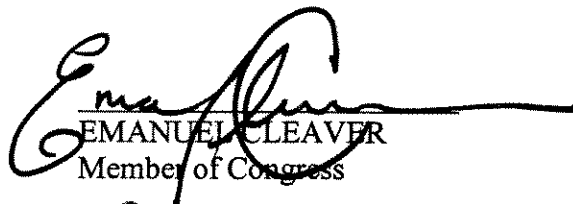
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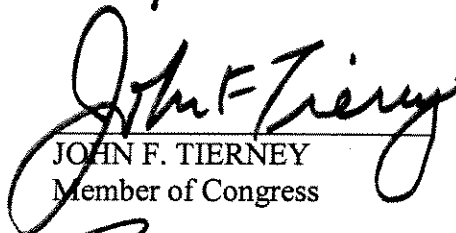
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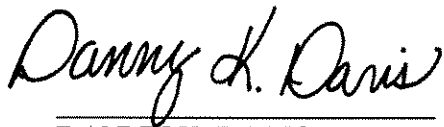
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SAM FARR
Member of Congress



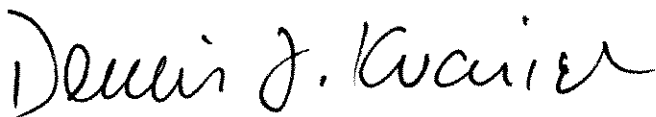
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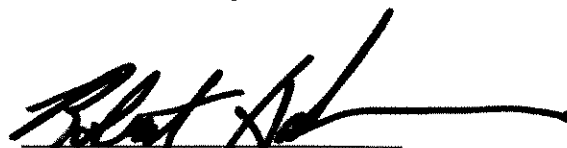
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Member of Congress



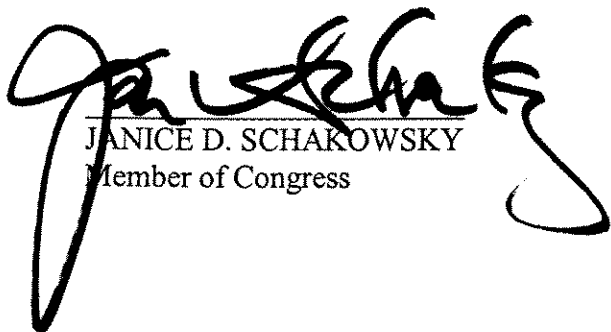
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DENNIS J. KUCINICH
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress




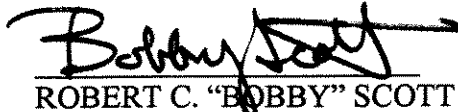
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